

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

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TAGS: ETRD, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA SHIFT TO STAGE TWO ON TRADE BILL/EX-IM ACT
COVERAGE

1. WHILE STILL TREATING RECENT CONGRESSIONAL TRADE AND CREDIT ACTIONS GINGERLY, SOVIET PRESS NOW MOVING TO STAGE TWO OF ITS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN: REPORTING OF REACTION AMONG US BUSINESS CIRCLES. DECEMBER 25 PRAVDA, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIED SHORT TASS ARTICLE ENTITLED, "THE OPINION OF US BUSINESS CIRCLES."
2. QUOTED FIRST IS ARTHUR ANDERSON AND CO. PRESIDENT R. JONES, WHO, WHILE WELCOMING EXISTING FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR US-USSR TRADE DEVELOPMENT, NOTES THAT ITS DEGREE WILL DEPEND ON PRESENCE IN US OF "EFFECTIVE TRADE LEGISLATION." UNFORTUNATELY, SAYS JONES (ACCORDING TO TASS), CONGRESS ATTACHED AMENDMENTS TO TRADE BILL WHICH HAVE NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDES, LEGISLATION IS DEPRIVED OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS. JONES FURTHER QUOTED AS ADVOCATING ELIMINATION OF BILL'S ARTIFICIAL HINDRANCES CAUSED BY AMERICAN OPPONENTS OF DETENTE.
3. NEXT, TASS QUOTES REPRESENTATIVE OF SATRA CORP. AS STATING

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THAT DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC TIES WITH USSR CORRESPONDS TO US

NATIONAL INTERESTS. HOWEVER, DISCRIMINATORY LIMITATIONS INCLUDED BY CONGRESS IN EX-IM ACT EXTENSION MAY HARM DEVELOPMENT OF US-USSR TRADE RELATIONS. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH SHORT STATEMENT BY DAVID ROCKEFELLER BLANDLY EXPRESSING HOPE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN NEW YEAR.

4. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS TYPE OF REPORTAGE IS FOUND IN LATEST LETERATURNAYA GAZETA, OUT DECEMBER 25. IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "TRADE AND OPPONENTS OF DETENTE," APN CORRESPONDENT GERASIMOV QUOTES HAROLD SCOTT (PRESIDENT OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL) AS STATING: "THE ANNOUNCEMENT (TASS ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF GROMYKO-KISSINGER LETTER) FROM MOSCOW WAS NECESSARY FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SITUATION AND WAS VERY TIMELY. I AM QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE MOOD IN (AMERICAN) BUSINESS CIRCLES AND ALSO IN THE GOVERNMENT--IT IS EXTREMELY FAVORABLE."

5. COMMENT: SOVIET PRESS PLAY TO DATE FOLLOWING STANDARD PATTERN: INITIAL STRAIGHT-FORWARD COVERAGE OF EVENT, FOLLOWED BY REACTION FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO SOVIET POSITION. PRESUMABLY, ACTUAL SOVIET EDITORIAL COMMENT WILL FOLLOW PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE ON BOTH ITEMS OF LEGISLATION. STOESSEL

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